

Required High School Summer Assignment

Summer Reading: (1) Read two books from this list, **or** one book from this list and one biography, memoir, or autobiography or other book of your own choosing. **Any** edition or translation is fine. These recommendations include many traditional “classics” of western culture, as well as suggestions for discovering other world masterworks. **(2) Create** a carefully designed and well executed **product** that will **persuade** others to read the books you chose.

Due the first day of school!

Homer, *The Iliad* Homer, *The Odyssey*
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Virgil, *The Aeneid*
Dante, *The Inferno*
Edith Hamilton, *Mythology* Thomas Bulfinch, *Mythology*
Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, *Julius Caesar*, etc.
Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels* Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*
Poetry by Blake, Keats, Shelley, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Christina Rossetti
Any work by Jane Austin, Mary Shelley, Emily Bronte, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham, Evelyn Waugh, or Virginia Woolf
Earnest Hemingway, *A Farewell To Arms*, his Africa stories, etc.
John Steinbeck, *Travels With Charlie*, etc.
Patrick O’Brian, *Master and Commander*, *The Far Side of the World*
Albert Camus, *The Stranger*
Julia Alvarez, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* or other works by Alvarez
Any book by Isabel Allende, especially her books for youth
Poetry by Pablo Neruda
Julia Butterfly Hill, *The Legacy of Luna*
Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
Carl Hiassen, *Hoot*, etc.
Patrick Smith, *A Land Remembered*
Lucy and Steven Hawking, *George’s Cosmic Treasure Hunt*
Helene Cooper, *The House at Sugar Beach*
Any work by Edgar Allen Poe, H.P. Lovecraft, H.G. Ballard, or Ray Bradbury

For more ideas, see *Great Books for High School Kids* edited by Rick Ayers and Amy Crawford.

And see “**Not-Your-Typical (High School) Summer Reading List**” @ www.whatkidscando.org! (This site also recommends great films for teens.)